

What is claimed is:

1. An audio recorder for interfacing with a speech recognition system, the
5 recorder comprising:
 - a. a microphone having an open front port that senses an audio signal and a closable back port which when open senses an audio signal, the microphone producing an output signal representative of the audio signal sensed by the microphone; and
 - 10 b. a mode selector switch having:
 - i. a first position for a close-talking mode in which the back port is open so that audio signals are sensed through both the front port and the back port so as to reduce representation of environmental noise in the output signal, and
 - 15 ii. a second position for a conference-talking mode in which the back port is closed so that audio signals are sensed through the front port only and environmental noise is not reduced.
2. An audio recorder according to claim 1, wherein the output signal is
20 compressed by the recorder and the second position of the mode selector switch causes greater compression than the first position.
3. An audio recorder according to claim 1, wherein the output signal is
25 amplified by the recorder and the second position of the mode selector switch causes greater amplification than the first position.
4. An audio recorder for interfacing with a speech recognition system, the recorder comprising:
 - a. a microphone that produces an output signal representative of an
30 input audio signal;

b. a record control that causes the recorder to create a new recording file for storing data representative of the output signal, and to begin storing data in the recording file;

c. a stop control that causes the recorder to stop storing data in the recording file and that ends the recording file; and

d. a recording file memory for storing recording files.

5. An audio recorder according to claim 4, wherein the recording file memory contains at least one file for receiving new vocabulary.

6. An audio recorder according to claim 4, wherein the recording file memory contains a folder for receiving new vocabulary.

7. An audio recorder for interfacing with a speech recognition system, the recorder comprising:

a. an internal microphone that produces an output signal representative of an input audio signal;

b. a jack for an external microphone that disables the internal microphone when an external microphone is plugged into the jack, and that allows the external microphone to produce the output signal representative of the input audio signal;

c. a recording file recorder that stores data representative of the output signal and an indication of the microphone used to produce the output signal.

8. An audio recorder for interfacing with a speech recognition system, the recorder comprising:

a. a recorder housing containing the recorder including a microphone that produces an output signal representative of an input audio signal; and

b. a recorder interface display on the surface of the housing that displays for a user information regarding the current state of the recorder, wherein the language of the information displayed is changeable by the user.

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9. An audio recorder according to claim 8, further comprising a speech recognition system interface connection such that the speech recognition system allows the user to change the language of the information displayed.

10 10. An audio recorder according to claim 8, further comprising an automatic gain control (AGC) circuit that automatically adjusts amplification of the microphone output signal.

11. An audio recorder according to claim 10, wherein the recorder interface
15 display indicates to the user when the audio signal is outside the range of the AGC circuit.

12. An audio recorder according to claim 10, wherein the recorder provides an
audible indication to the user when the audio signal is outside the range of the
20 AGC circuit.

13. An audio recorder for interfacing with a speech recognition system, the recorder comprising:

- 25 a. a microphone that produces an output signal representative of an input audio signal;
- b. a recording file recorder that stores in a recording file data representative of the microphone output signal;
- c. an external interface that allows an external recording file containing data representative of an audio signal to be input to the
30 recorder for storage; and

d. a recording file manager that allows a user to store and manage a plurality of recording files in the recorder.

14. An audio recorder according to claim 13, further comprising a recording
5 file player that produces an audible output representative of a user selected recording file.

15. An audio recorder according to claim 14, wherein the recording file player includes a text-to-speech module so that an external recording file may contain
10 text.

16. An audio recorder according to claim 15, wherein an external recording file may be an e-mail message.

15 17. An audio recorder according to claim 16, wherein a user may audibly respond to the e-mail message via the microphone.

18. An audio recorder according to claim 17, wherein the response may be transcribed to text and attached to the e-mail message.

20 19. An audio recorder according to claim 15, wherein an external recording file may be an alphanumeric paging message.

25 20. An audio recorder according to claim 13, wherein the user may record a recording file for insertion into an existing recording file.

21. An audio recorder according to claim 13, wherein the recording file manager allows recording files to be linked together for common processing.

22. A computer user interface that provides access to an audio recorder, the interface comprising:

a. a communication module that generates an access request to a file manager of the audio recorder; and

b. an access interface, coupled to the communication module, the access interface including display regions that specify:

i. an audio recorder that may contain an audio file,

ii. an identity of a speaker who recorded the audio file, and

iii. an acoustic environment in which the audio file was recorded.

23. An interface according to claim 22, wherein the access interface includes a display region to specify the type of microphone used to record an audio file.

24. An interface according to claim 22, wherein the access interface includes a display region to specify a retrieval method for an audio file.

25. An interface according to claim 22, wherein access interface includes a display region that notifies a user of a file transfer status.

26. An interface according to claim 22, wherein the access interface includes a display region that notifies a user that a recorder link is not found.

27. An interface according to claim 26, wherein the access interface includes a display region suggesting actions a user may take when the recorder link is not found.

28. An interface according to claim 22, wherein the access interface includes a display region to change a microphone field before transcribing.

29. An interface according to claim 22, further comprising a file transfer interface coupled to the communication module to transfer files between an audio recorder and a user computer.

5 30. An interface according to claim 29, wherein the file transfer interface includes a display region to specify that at least one audio file be transferred.

31. An interface according to claim 29, wherein the file transfer interface includes a display region to specify that at least one audio file be transcribed.

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32. An interface according to claim 29, wherein the file transfer interface includes a display region to specify that at least one audio file be delivered to a third application.

15 33. An interface according to claim 29, wherein the file transfer interface includes a display region to specify one of a plurality of delivery methods for a transferred file.

20 34. An interface according to claim 29, wherein the file transfer interface includes a display region that displays audio files contained in an internal memory of an audio recorder.

25 35. An interface according to claim 29, wherein the file transfer interface includes a display region that displays audio folders contained in an internal memory of an audio recorder.

30 36. An interface according to claim 29, wherein the file transfer interface includes a display region that displays audio files contained in an external memory of an audio recorder.

37. An interface according to claim 29, wherein the file transfer interface includes a display region that displays folders contained in an external memory of an audio recorder.

5 38. An interface according to claim 22, further comprising a user preference interface coupled to the communication module for configuring an audio recorder.

39. An interface according to claim 38, wherein the user preference interface
10 includes an option to conceal at least one audio file or folder.

40. An interface according to claim 38, wherein the user preference interface includes an option to disable at least one empty audio file or folder.

15 41. An interface according to claim 38, wherein the user preference interface includes an option to edit at least one audio file or folder.

42. An interface according to claim 38, wherein the user preference interface includes an option to add at least one audio file or folder.

20 43. An interface according to claim 38 wherein the user preference interface includes an option to transcribe an audio file or folder.

44. An interface according to claim 38, wherein the user preference interface
25 includes an option to transcribe an audio file with vocal annotations.

45. An interface according to claim 38, wherein the user preference interface includes a display region to specify a language in which menus are displayed on the audio recorder.

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46. An interface according to claim 38, wherein the user preference interface includes an option to combine audio files.

47. An interface according to claim 38, wherein the user preference interface includes an option to annotate an audio file.

48. An interface according to claim 38, wherein the user preference interface includes an option to create at least one audio file in an audio recorder.

49. An interface according to claim 38, wherein the user preference interface includes an option to compress an audio file.

50. A system for managing audio files on an audio recorder, the system comprising:

- a. an audio recorder to record an audio file;
- b. a communication module that generates an access request to a file manager of the audio recorder; and
- c. an access interface, coupled to the communication module, the access interface including display regions that specify:
 - i. an audio recorder that may contain an audio file
 - ii. an identity of a speaker who recorded the audio file, and
 - iii. an acoustic environment in which the audio file was recorded.

51. A system according to claim 50, wherein the audio recorder comprises:

- a. a microphone having an open front port that senses an audio signal and a closable back port which when open senses an audio signal, the microphone producing an output signal representative of the audio signal sensed by the microphone; and
- b. a mode selector switch having:

i. a first position for a close-talking mode in which the back port is open so that audio signals are sensed through both the front port and the back port so as to reduce representation of environmental noise in the output signal, and

5 ii. a second position for a conference-talking mode in which the back port is closed so that audio signals are sensed through the front port only and environmental noise is not reduced.

52. A system according to claim 50, further comprising a file transfer interface
10 coupled to the communication module to transfer files between the audio recorder and a user computer.

53. A system according to claim 50, further comprising a user preference
15 interface coupled to the communication module for configuring an audio recorder.

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